

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/487,861

Applicant(s)

OBA ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

X L Bautista

2179

-- **Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondenc address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 9/14/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 January 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 9/14/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

X. L. Bautista
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2179

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Mark R. Kendrick on December 20, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

In claim 10 (page 8, line 12), "the capabilities inputting the audio signal from" has been changed to --the capabilities of inputting the audio signal from--.

In claim 19 (page 13, line 6), "an external editing system to received edited" has been changed to --an external editing system to receive[[d]] edited--.

In claim 26 (page 15, line 1), "An audio system capable of applying different modes" has been changed to -- An ~~audio system~~ apparatus capable of applying different modes--.

In claim 27 (page 16, line 1), "An audio system capable of presenting different" has been changed to --An ~~audio system~~ apparatus capable of presenting different--.

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-27 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1-8, 10, 13, 14, 16, 19, and 25-27 have been carefully considered. Prior art of record does not teach a system, apparatus and display method for processing an audio signal inputted from different types of signal sources with visual indication of the signal sources by labels; the audio system having a main section that provides the capabilities of processing the audio signal; an editing section that is physically separate from the main section, which is used for editing display data representative of labels corresponding to a capability of processing the audio signal; a display section separate from the editing section; and a selecting section for selecting one type of different types of signal sources to input audio signal wherein the selecting section, display section and storage systems are located in a first apparatus and the different types of signal sources are physically connected to the first apparatus through external device connection interfaces not including a radio frequency interface and separate from a personal computer connection terminal.

Humpleman teaches a method for controlling diverse home devices. A home device connected to a home network displays user interface data. A user may use a computer for editing information displayed in a home page. Humpleman does not

teach an audio system for processing an audio signal inputted from different types of signal sources with visual indication of the signal sources by labels; the audio system including a selecting section for selecting one type of different types of signal sources to input audio signal wherein the selecting section, display section and storage systems are located in a first apparatus and the different types of signal sources are physically connected to the first apparatus through external device connection interfaces not including a radio frequency interface and separate from a personal computer connection terminal.

Sussman teaches a portable audio system for managing and cataloguing an inventory of audio and audio-visual recordings. Sussman does not teach an audio system for processing an audio signal inputted from different types of signal sources with visual indication of the signal sources by labels; the audio system including a selecting section for selecting one type of different types of signal sources to input audio signal wherein the selecting section, display section and storage systems are located in a first apparatus and the different types of signal sources are physically connected to the first apparatus through external device connection interfaces not including a radio frequency interface and separate from a personal computer connection terminal.

Conclusion

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

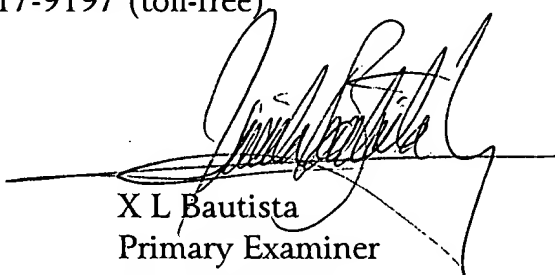
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to X L Bautista whose telephone number is (571) 272-4132. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (757) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR

only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the
Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)



X L Bautista
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2179

xlb
20 December 2004